



School starts for students and their future teachers

Monday, August 20 was the first day of the school year for Aruba's students of all ages, including those that will eventually be teachers, as the Instituto Pedagógico Arubano (IPA) began the new school year. IPA welcomed and conducted an orientation on Monday for thirty new first year student teachers along with members of the second and third classes. The orientation was prepared and presented by third-year volunteers Jade Padron and Mirella Werleman, and according to Gregory Goedgedrag, language teacher and a member of BUVO, is incorporated into their education in becoming teachers.

IPA students participated in a morning long introduction to the staff of teachers and councilors during the early morning sessions, and a tour was conducted of the school in San Nicolas for their first day. The entire first week of school one long orientation filled with interesting events, including a day spent at the Washington Community Center and finishing with a fun day at De Palm Island. This week of get-acquainted activities has a purpose, and assists the students in networking, so they can support of each other in their projects. Many of the assignments in their education in becoming teachers will be done as groups, including the orientation week, which was planned and organized by the second class as part of their education.

An additional eighteen other students began their education at the IPA with a week of camping in the countryside, as they are studying to become primary school physical education teachers, and with the first week are "put to the test" in an enjoyable fashion. Mr. Goedgedrag pointed out that during their education, the future teachers are continually encouraged to work with their colleagues; supporting each other with ideas and information, and this is worked into their curriculum in various interesting projects. Monday's orientation and the entire week is not only an opportunity to meet both staff and students of the school, but also practical experience for their future profession.